

## Message Text

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53

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 ORM-02

CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 /044 W

----- 063005

R 141322Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3761

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

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DEPT FOR VO, SCA AND D/HA; LONDON FOR TOM DAVIS;

ROME FOR INS FALCHER; GENEVA FOR BRENNAN

M11652: NA

TAGS: SREF CVIS

SUBJECT: ASSYRIAN AND ARMENIAN REFUGEES

REF: GENEVA 2716 (NOTAL)

1. FIFTH WEEKLY MEETING OF INFORMAL WORKING GROUP HELD THIS MORNING IN CONSUL GENERALS OFFICE, CHAIRED BY VISA UNIT CHIEF WHITTEMORE, ACTING FOR CONGEN DAVIS. OTHERS PRESENT WERE UNHCR REPS HASELMAN, PREKAS, AND GONDICAS, ICEM REP ALEXANDRAKIS, WCC REPS DE JONGE AND MAIMARI, ICMC REP LIDORIKI, AND INS ATTACHE ATHENS LOU PAPPAS.

BEM WITH LIGHT NOW VISIBLE AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS EXPECTED APPROXIMATE COMPLETION DATES FOR VARIOUS PHASES OF THIS OPERATION. WE ANTICIPATE THAT INS WILL COMPLETE THE INTERVIEWING OF ALL CONDITIONAL ENTRY APPLICANTS BY END OF THIS WEEK.

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BY APRIL 22 ALL NONPREFERENCE SPOUSES AND CHILDREN

WILL HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED AND MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR WHOLE GROUP OF REFUGEES WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. INS APPROVALS WITH CONCURRENT ISSUANCES OF NONPREFERENCE IMMIGRANT VISAS ARE GOING AHEAD NOW AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE AND ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGH FIRST WEEK OF MAY, AND POSSIBLY INTO THE SECOND WEEK. INS EXPECTS TO APPROVE 260 CONDITIONAL ENTRANTS BETWEEN NOW AND APRIL 30, AND ABOUT 250 MORE IN FIRST WEEK (OR TWO) OF MAY, WHICH WILL WIND UP PROGRAM FOR THEM. ASSUMING FOREGOING PROVES CORRECT, ICEM ANTICIPATES HAVING ALL REFUGEES FLOWN OUT OF GREECE TO THE US BY MAY 15.

3. OPERATION STATISTICS TO DATE:

ANTICIPATED TOTAL CASELOAD 2,193

INTERVIEWS THRU APRIL 14 1,865  
(INCLUDES 960 BY INS AND 905 BY VISA UNIT  
FOR NONPREFERENCE)

VISAS EAGLE/ALPHA CLEARANCES  
INITIATED THRU APRIL 14 1,320

INS APPROVALS THRU APRIL 13 484

NONPREFERENCE IMMIGRANT VISAS ISSUED  
THRU APRIL 13 293

REFUGEE DEPARTURES FROM ATHENS THRU  
APRIL 14 (INCLUDES SOME REFUGEES  
DOCUMENTED IN BEIRUT) 823

4. ICMC REP NOTED THAT HER FINANCIAL ASSURANCES (SEE REFTTEL) HAVE STILL NOT ARRIVED. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DELAYED AS RESULT OF LAST WEEKS STRIKE BY GROUND PERSONNEL OF FOREIGN AIRLINES AT ATHENS. IF THEY DO NOT ARRIVE BY NEXT MONDAY, EMBASSY WILL REQUEST DESPATCH OF DUPLICATE SET SO THAT INS APPROVAL OF ICMS - SPONSORED REFUGEES WILL NOT BE FURTHER DELAYED.

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5. WITH EXCEPTION OF NECESSITY FOR UNHCR REP HASELMAN TO SEEK DOUBLING OF HIS BUDGET FOR OPERATION EXPENSES, REMAINING PROBLEMS APPEAR TO BE FEW AND TO PRENT NO GREAT DIFFICULTIES. WORKING GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN APRIL 21, AND EMBASSY WILL REPORT PROGRESS AS OF THEM. STEARNS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NAME CHECKS (SECURITY)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 76 GENEVA 2716  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>  
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EO Systematic Review  
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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ASSYRIAN AND ARMENIAN REFUGEES  
**TAGS:** CVIS, SREF, LE, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006